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Letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations address to the President of the Security Council

With reference to the killing of Ambassador Ihab Al-Sharif, chief of the Egyptian Mission in Iraq, on 1 Jumada II A.H. 1426 (7 July A.D. 2005), I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the statement issued by His Eminence the Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema and Chairman of the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'.

I should be grateful if the present letter and its annex were circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Fawzi bin Abdul Majeed **Shobokshi**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 8 July 2005 from the Permanent Representative of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Praise be to God and may prayers and peace be upon His last Prophet.

We ask God Almighty to preserve our religion, bless us with adherence through religion to the outer and inner truth, keep us sane and protect us from our own evil.

It was with extreme sorrow that we learned of the killing of the Egyptian ambassador in Iraq. Given that this incident has been wrongly and falsely couched under the guise of religion, we wish to state the truth with which God may guide those who have strayed from the right path.

Prohibited by God, killing is one of the greatest of crimes and gravest of sins. God Almighty says: "Do not take life, which God has made sacred, except for a just cause" and "On that account, we ordained for the Children of Israel that if anyone kills a person other than in retaliation for murder or for doing mischief on Earth, it would be as if killing all humankind."

The abduction and subsequent killing of the Egyptian ambassador are events constituting the doing of mischief on Earth that is prohibited by God Almighty: "Among mankind is he whose words on the life of this world please you and who calls upon God to bear witness to what is in his heart; yet he is the most violent of adversaries. And when he turns away, he seeks to do mischief on Earth and destroy the crops and the cattle. When it is said to him that he should fear God, he is led by pride to further sin. Hell is therefore enough for him; it is an evil resting place indeed." It is thus clear that such action is prohibited and is among the gravest of sins. It is an even graver sin to attribute such action to religion; to do so is a major crime and a calumny against God Almighty, who says: "Verily, those who fabricate lies against God shall never prosper."

We wished to make this statement in order to present the truth and advise the nation. I ask God Almighty to preserve our religion and our nation, keep us sane, grant us success in comprehending our religion and adhering to the Sunnah of the Prophet, and save us from the possibility of being led astray by obvious and hidden temptations. He is All-hearing and ready to answer.

Prayers and peace be upon our Prophet Muhammad, his family and his companions.

Abdulaziz bin Abdullah bin Muhammad **Al al-Sheikh**
[*Seal illegible*]
Grand Mufti of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
Chairman of the Committee of Senior Ulema
Chairman of the Department of Scientific Research and Ifta'